

SUNDAY, JULY 17, 1898.

## STRANGE FOOD IN WARTIME.

HOW HUNGER COMPELS EXPERIMENTS UPON QUEER MEATS.

THE "SIEGE VENISON" OF PARIS IS USUALLY THE FIRST RESOURCE—THEN THE FLESH OF DOGS, CATS, RATS AND EVEN WILD BEASTS.

It is only in times of siege and famine that men discover how many different kinds of food there are besides those usually consumed. Hunger drives them to experiments upon substances which they would shrink from eating on ordinary occasions, and they frequently find that these uncommon foods, generally considered unfit for human beings, are not only nourishing, but agreeable in flavor once the prejudice against them has been broken and the palate accustomed to the new taste.

There have been at times in different countries associations of persons who made trials of odd foods for the purpose of ascertaining their fitness for consumption, but they have never succeeded in accomplishing their projected reforms. Most people cling fondly to their old ideas about what is good to eat and what is not, and only the prospect of genuine famine can persuade them to try ordinarily condemned things.

When any town or district has been besieged for such a length of time that its food supply runs short, the first proceeding usually resorted to in order to procure food for the inhabitants is the killing of horses. This meat seems to be preferred to any other of an unusual nature when the everyday beef, mutton and pork become unobtainable. The eating of horseflesh under such circumstances is a practice dating back to very early times, instances of it being mentioned among the Persians, the Greeks and other nations of antiquity. Later it is recorded that at the siege of Antioch, in the first crusade, the horses of the besiegers were eaten in such quantities that in two months not more than two thousand of the original seventy thousand were left. At the siege of Metz thirty thousand horses are said to have been eaten. But the famous siege of Paris in the Franco-Prussian War furnishes the most interesting example of the variety of meats which may be used in great straits. During that terrible winter of 1870-'71, while the German Army outside prevented supplies of any kind from being brought into the unfortunate French capital, not only such familiar animals as horses, mules, dogs, cats, rats and mice supplied the tables of rich and poor alike, but even the menagerie of wild beasts in the Jardin des Plantes disappeared gradually, and neither doubt nor surprise was expressed at its destination.

### HORSE MEAT EATEN IN PARIS.

Of the horses sixty-five thousand were eaten during the siege. This meat, however, was not new to the Parisian taste—at least, not to the taste of the working classes. Since 1866 it had been lawful to slaughter horses for human food, and horse butcher-shops were common establishments in the city. But the entire number of horses killed in time of peace was trifling compared to this enormous total in wartime. The Parisians, with their irrepressible levity and disposition to smooth matters over, even under such circumstances as these, called the horsemeat "siege venison," and there were few complaints regarding it.

According to the general testimony, not only of the French at this time, but of scientists in different countries who have tried the meat under many conditions, horseflesh possesses a flavor about half-way between that of beef and game, and is variously compared to venison and

to hare. It is coarser in grain than beef, and in this respect resembles bull beef more than any other. It has a peculiar smell, which is at first a trifle disconcerting, but which soon becomes familiar, and a certain sweetness of taste. It is darker in color and more moist than beef. Its fat, which is moist and yellow, is not generally mixed with the lean, and it soon melts and becomes rancid. One authority says that horsemeat, being richer, is undoubtedly superior to beef for soup, and he goes on to declare that for roasting the best parts of a young horse are finer than any beef. The chief chemical difference between the two is that horseflesh has the greater quantity of the nitrogenous substance called creatine.

### "DELICIOUS" MULE FLESH.

Besides the sixty-five thousand horses eaten during the siege of Paris one thousand asses and two thousand mules are said to have been consumed. The flesh of the latter was pronounced delicious, excelling horseflesh in its quality. The number of rats and mice used is not computed, but of dogs there are said to have

## CRIMES ON THE HIGH SEAS.

PUNISHABLE ONLY BY THE COUNTRY UNDER WHOSE FLAG THE VESSEL SAILS.

Among the questions which have been discussed in connection with the *Bourgoigne* disaster, especially by those people who believed the crew to have been guilty of criminal cowardice, was the one which related to trials for crime committed on the high seas. "If the crew of the French steamer committed a crime, where could they be tried?" "May a person who is suspected of having committed a crime while on the ocean be indicted at the first port where he may land?" and similar questions were asked by people who were anxious to have indictments found against the members of the crew who landed in this country.

It was learned at the office of the United States District-Attorney that the crew of the *Bourgoigne* could be arrested only on the complaint of the French Consul-General, and that

## CHURCH ON THE NAHANT.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES ON THE DECK OF THE OLD MONITOR.

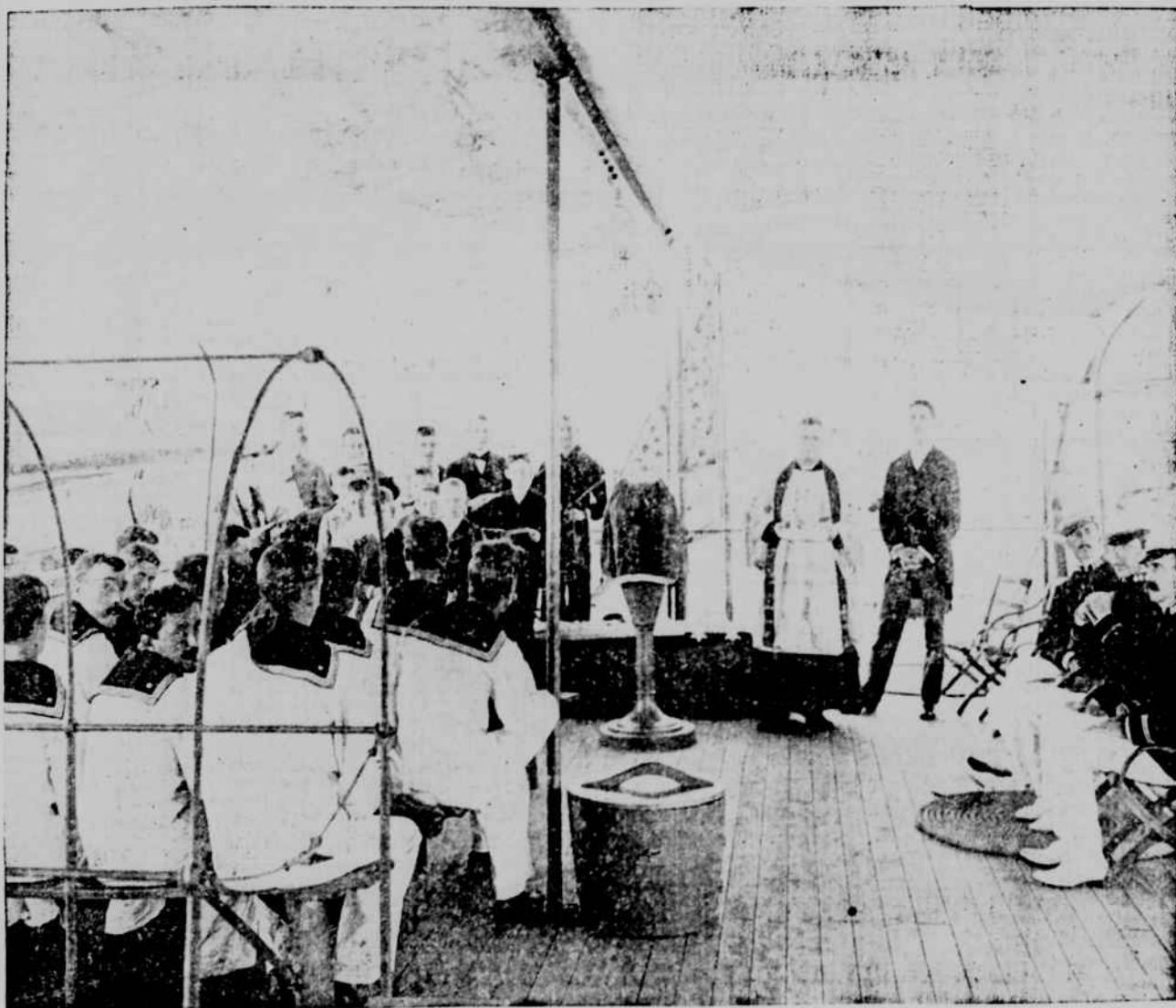
Life on board the old monitor *Nahant*, which has been lying off Staten Island for several weeks, is not exactly the thing which was expected and desired by her Naval Reserve crew when they manned her. Harbor defence duty, when there is no enemy from which to defend anything is monotonous work. Its tameness is heightened, too, in this case by the fact that the citizen tars are mostly New-York men, and particularly dislike being stationed in front of their own dooryards. If it was necessary for them to do coast defence duty, they think it would have been a little more interesting to perform it a few miles further from home. Starting for the war in Cuba and coming to anchor off Tompkinsville, Staten Island, is dampening to patriotic ardor.

Nevertheless, the *Nahant's* men are making the best of their fate, and affairs on the craft are managed in ship shape fashion. Even the "Rig Church" order of the regular Navy is issued and fulfilled on Sunday mornings, just as if the vessel were leagues out at sea instead of in a home port where the men can obtain shore leave to attend church at any time they care to. The arrangement for the services was, however, a chance one, due to the suggestion of a Staten Island clergyman, for it was considered that the *Nahant's* nearness to New-York made special provision for church on board unnecessary.

One Sunday morning, soon after the monitor took up her station at Tompkinsville, three or four of the sailors attended the service at St. Paul's Memorial Episcopal Church, situated about half-way between Stapleton and Tompkinsville. They were observed by the rector, the Rev. A. L. Wood, and at the close of the service he spoke to them and asked one or two questions. The result was his offer to hold a short service each Sunday morning on board the *Nahant*. This was gladly accepted, and was put into practice the following week. Since then it has gone on without interruption, and will be continued as long as the monitor remains at Tompkinsville. Mr. Wood is away this month on a vacation, but a visiting clergyman or one of the assistants at St. Paul's supplies his place.

Last Sunday, when the accompanying photograph was taken, the Rev. Mr. Macfarlane, acting chaplain of the Brothers of Nazareth in this city, officiated. The musical part of the service was led, in accordance with Mr. Wood's custom every Sunday, by a detachment of choir men and boys from St. Paul's, under the direction of Mr. Walker, the church organist. It is needless to say that the boys are highly pleased with the idea of visiting a warship thus regularly at a lending their aid to the carrying out of one of the orders in the Naval Regulations.

When the party from the church is assembled on the dock near where the *Nahant* lies, one of them signals with a handkerchief and the captain's gig puts off from the ship to take them aboard. The service begins at about 9:45 o'clock and lasts three-quarters of an hour, thus allowing the clergyman time enough to get back to his church for the 11 o'clock service. It is customary for all the *Nahant's* officers and crew, who are not away on shore leave or engaged in active duties on the vessel to attend church when the bugler summons them to the quarter-deck, which is shaded by an awning. Benches are provided for them there, the officers sitting on one side and the men on the other. The clergyman stands at the bow, facing the two lines of benches and having the choir at his right hand. At his left an assistant is ready to hand him the different books as he requires them.



RELIGIOUS SERVICE ON BOARD THE UNITED STATES MONITOR NAHANT.

been one thousand two hundred, and of cats three thousand. From the testimony of many persons who have eaten the flesh of cats and dogs it is said to resemble that of rabbits, and when well cooked to be extremely palatable.

Of the animals in the menagerie of the Jardin des Plantes the flesh of two bears which were eaten was likened to pork, both in texture and taste. Three elephants were consumed, and while there is no record of the way in which the Parisians prepared their elephant meat, it is well known that it can be made pleasant to the taste when cooked in the proper way. African travellers and hunters have many tales to tell of the delicacy of baked elephant's foot; elephant's heart and liver are also esteemed as food, and steaks cut from the animal are said to be juicy and tender. Three kangaroos and a seal from the menagerie helped to vary still further the siege fare. The seal's flesh was compared to young lamb.

Some of the recent reports from Santiago have asserted that the only food left in the city was rice, and that only in small quantities. Although meat is desirable for its strength-giving qualities, especially when men require unusual vigor for fighting, still vegetable foods will support life and energy for a long time. Rice is nourishing and has served before as a war food. During the famous siege of Lucknow, in India, it was for a long time the only thing left to eat. The native soldiers generously requested that what little rice there was should be given to their British comrades; they would get along, they said, with the "soup"—that is, the water in which the rice had been boiled!

The United States authorities could do no more than to turn the men over to the legal authorities in France, where they could be placed on trial.

"If a man commits a crime on the high seas," said Assistant District-Attorney Clarence S. Houghton, "and the vessel is beyond the jurisdiction of any United States district, the criminal should be kept on board until some United States port may be reached, and should be placed on trial in the district where the first landing is made. Should the vessel land at a foreign port before proceeding to the United States the matter is brought before the United States Consul, and he directs the arrest of the criminal and his transportation to the United States for trial. This rule is followed by all countries."

### LUMINOSITY IN PLANTS.

From Meehan's Monthly.

Many instances have been recorded of flowers being luminous at night. They only seem to do this on rare occasions, hence they are to be envied who have the good fortune to witness the phenomena. Though the writer has often endeavored to get fortune's favor, she has never smiled on him but once, when he saw the phosphorescent glow from fungi in a hollow tree, just like the glow of a match when rubbed in the dark. A German naturalist, Herr Haggren, seems to have met with a number of instances in his country—or rather the night watchman he employed did. He concludes the phenomena are more likely to occur when it is dark, after rain, following a sunny day. July and August gave the most instances. Occurrences began soon after sunset, and there were none after dawn. He could not decide on the cause of the luminosity.